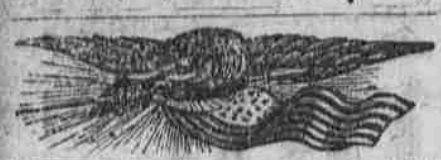


## Freemen's Champion.



"LIBERTY OR DEATH."

Prairie City, Kansas, June 25, 1857

After such vexations and disappointments as none but Kansas publishers have ever experienced, the CHAMPION now appears before the public—an humble and unpretentious sheet.

At the dawning of a new paper, it is generally the custom for its editor to define his position and arrange his programme accordingly. In this particular we shall deviate from the usual course. What we intend to do or will do, we don't know. On one point only can we speak with a firm reliance: we shall be uncompromising, unflinching, bold and fearless in aiding to secure the triumph of Freedom over tyranny in our Territory, and shall labor assiduously for the Free State party. To work in the best manner to promote the interest of our sacred cause will be the point the CHAMPION will aim at. If in our opinion the admission of Kansas into the Union as a Free State will be the more speedily attained by co-operating with the Democratic party, then are we with them; if we think the same in regard to the Republican party, then are we with them; or if we deem it best to stand aloof from all parties and go it independently on our own hook, then we shall pursue that course. In the strict sense of the word the CHAMPION will be independent—holding on to one position, or changing and re-changing it just so long or so often as it is deemed expedient. For the present we see fit to be guided by the dictations of the Topeka conventions. We consider their position the true one—a wise and laudable one. That the salvation of our cause depends upon its friends uniting heart and hand in carrying out their policy, we firmly believe. These are our convictions now—they have been for the last three months. Until some *modus operandi* can be hit upon which will the more speedily effect the accomplishment of our purpose, we shall use our efforts to unite the Free State people on the Topeka platform.

Justifying our name—FREEMEN'S CHAMPION—we design to be a warrior in vindicating the rights of freemen. We hope to be always found on the side of freedom and an ardent friend of the oppressed and the down-trodden—a relentless foe of the tyrant, the demagogue and the doughface traitor. With these few remarks for our "face," we launch our little sheet out into the world, to meet with the successes or reverses of fortune.

What do you think of this, Ladies?

The better sex are a scarce commodity in this community. We have a few as handsome, intelligent and highly-accomplished young ladies as any city can boast of, but "declarations of intentions" have been "fired" on the most of them, with fair prospects of being "pre-empted," and no hopes of "jumping." Considering this state of things, the proprietors of Prairie City, with the view of supplying the wants of our young men, offer as an inducement for young ladies in the States to emigrate and settle among us, a city lot to each and every one, so soon as they consent to become a "squatter's claim." What more inducements can you desire, ladies? Let us know, and you shall be satisfied.

Our old Aurora friend, HENRY H. EVANS, is erecting a building near the post office, which is designed for an eating saloon. He intends to keep everything in the line of edibles, ice creams, lemonades, &c. HANK is used to this kind of business, and he undoubtedly will have a tip-top saloon. We bespeak for him a liberal patronage.

The Kansas Leader, is the title of a new paper published by Austin & Beardsley, hailing from Centropolis, the second number of which is before us. The Leader is a handsome sheet and is edited with considerable ability. The people of Centropolis should see that this paper is well sustained, for it reflects great credit upon their town. Success and long life to the

## Celebration of the Battle of Black Jack.

Tuesday, the 2d instant, was a day long to be remembered by the citizens of Prairie City. It was the first anniversary of the memorable battle of Black Jack, in which engagement the notorious Capt. Pate, with twenty-six of his South Carolina and Georgia highwaymen and murderers (chivalric sons of the sunny South!) were taken prisoners by the Ottawa Rangers, numbering sixteen men, under command of Capt. Shore, assisted by Capt. Brown, and nine of his company. This event had an important bearing in the struggles which our heroic little band endured in their efforts to obtain their rights; and as the day of that occurrence was so fresh in the memory of the participants of that battle, the first anniversary could not be allowed to pass, without celebrating that glorious victory.

The day was ushered in by a national salute from Major ALEXANDER's artillery. At two o'clock, people from every direction began to assemble at the United Brethren church, and the meeting was called to order by Dr. WM. GRAHAM, who nominated WILEY JONES for President, and S. S. PHOURY was elected Secretary. The President, on taking the chair, briefly alluded to the object of the gathering, reviewed the present critical position of the Free State people of the Territory, and concluded by announcing Mr. Wm. Moore as speaker of the day. Mr. Moore took the stand amid great applause. The selection of Father Moore for speaker on this occasion was a very appropriate one. He was a prisoner in the camp of the Ruffians at the time of the battle, and was used for breastwork by some of Pate's men to protect them from Free State bullets. The old gentleman gave a glowing and vivid account of the battle. He said that the skirmish at Black Jack, insignificant as it might appear, exhibited as much valor, military skill and true patriotism on the part of Captains Shore and Brown, as any battle fought during the revolutionary struggle of '76. Had this battle been won by Gen. Washington, or Gen. Jackson, history and orators would have been eloquent and enthusiastic in their laudations of it, and the world would have been thoroughly acquainted with its details; but as these noble men were unknown to fame, their names were seldom mentioned beyond the circles in which they move; and their triumph over the Ruffians, which should occupy a most conspicuous place in the history of Kansas, was not chronicled with that attention which it deserves. He then compared the present condition of the Territory with that of one year ago. What a change! Then all was excitement; the offshoots of Missouri, South Carolina and Georgia, invaded the Territory; innocent men were murdered, houses sacked, burned, and the inmates driven out to implore assistance of the cold charities of the world; helpless females were ravished—violence and disorder reigned supreme. Now all is quiet. The husbandman is permitted to till the soil; the traveler can pursue his way alone unarmed, with perfect safety; citizens can retire to their couches at night without fear of the midnight assassin; the voice of the plowman is heard urging his cattle onward in turning up the soil, instead of the harsh orders of fighting leaders, spurring their men on to the work of devastation and death. What a happy change! How fervently should we pray for this state of things to continue! Mr. Moore then paid an eloquent tribute to Captains Shore and Brown and their brave followers in this battle, and then sat down.

We regret that we are unable to give a full report of Mr. Moore's speech: It was extremely interesting and for the period of one hour the audience were completely spell-bound in listening to the recital of the wrongs endured by the hardy pioneers of Kansas from the hands of the National Administration.

Dr. GRAHAM followed Mr. Moore with a few appropriate remarks, when the meeting adjourned.

At sundown Major ALEXANDER's Artillery gave another national salute, and as the booming of the ordinance, belching from its brazen throat in the hands of our soldiers,

over the hills and dales, it forcibly impressed upon its listeners of the happy contrast between the present time and one year ago.

The 2d of June will always be observed as a holiday by the citizens of Prairie City.

## Hear them Howl.

The tide of battle between slavery and freedom is setting so strongly in favor of freedom, that the Southern journals are becoming desponding in their tone. The Charleston Mercury lectures the Southern people for their supineness in relation to Kansas. It says "the lofty zeal which was at one time manifested in regard to Kansas, seems to have waned into cool indifference," adding:

"The period is fast approaching which will determine whether or not Kansas will go into the Union with a constitution favorable to slavery. Her importance to the South makes it imperative on us to do all that a proud and highminded people can do to secure her for ourselves. It is not yet too late to compete for the prize. Our efforts, if well timed and properly directed, will yet be of avail in the final struggle which is to determine freedom or slavery—anarchy, or 'the constitution as our fathers gave it.' Let us then be up and doing, and if we cannot make her a slave state, make her at least democratic."

The Newburg (S. C.) Rising Sun sets up a prolonged and ludicrous howl over the prospects of the South. Its remarks are so decidedly rich that we copy them in full:

"Clouds and darkness—threatening clouds, ominous darkness—gather around our political future. A night gloomy and terrible sets in upon us. We are drifting slowly, silently, into an ocean of storms, furious whirlwinds, quicksands and fearful whirlpools. A solemn silence prevails; 'tis the precursor of a horrible tempest. Hark! the low-muttering rumbling of distant thunder breaks upon the stillness. Fitful flashes reveal the sullen gloom. The lurid air is heavy and chill. The storm approaches—nearer and nearer it comes, louder and more loud it howls. Man the sails—all hands to their posts. The South expects every man to do his duty. Life and death, honor and liberty, are involved. Let each heart be firm—each nerve be steady. The conflict will be fierce as hate and malice can make it. Stand firm. Hark! what crash was that? Kansas is gone! List! a triumphant shout from the spirits of the storm! Missouri is yielding. How fierce the blasts, how lurid the lightning! How terrible the tempest—sea and heaven are commingled! Hows horrible, yells terrific, tear our ears! Virginia is assailed. Gloomy, dark, terrible, howls the tempest! Watchman, what of the night? All is dark! dark! no dawn appears."

There! the reader must have held his breath while reading this startling picture. Let us turn to something more matter-of-fact. The New Orleans Delta, one of the most radical of the Southern organs, casts about for means to resist the onward progress of freedom in the frontier slave States. It says:

"The remedy is plain enough.—For example, Maryland has 90,368 slaves; Virginia, 472,528; Kentucky, 201,981; Missouri, 87,422. These States, from their position, have long been regarded as picket sentinels of slavery. They may resist the anti-slavery pressure, but self-defense should urge the States lying south of them to look to the permanency of the institution along the frontier and render 'assurance doubly sure.' This can be done by passing stringent enactments preventing the four States above named from emptying their slave population, as they are now doing, into the country south of their boundaries, until all fear of emancipation shall have been dispelled. With a slave population of 861,299, to say nothing of the natural increase, in four States containing only an area of 177,412 square miles, it is highly improbable that the idea of emancipation would be tolerated for a moment.

To free nearly nine hundred thousand persons held to involuntary servitude would be to burden the States with paupers and put free negro labor in successful competition with free white labor. Colonization would be out of the question, and the result would be resistance to the death to Northern aggression. Common danger and common interest would compel Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and even Missouri to keep up a permanent alliance with the Carolinas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia and the Gulf States."

The Missouri River has been made a mail route; and the United States mail is now carried in the steamers up and down the river.

See Mr. WILMARTH's card, in another column. He has recently received a new lot of books.

## The Topeka Constitution.

Some writers in the Herald of Freedom, who are either tinctured with old fogeyism or envious of the honors of some of the Free State leaders, are endeavoring to show up the fallacy of the Topeka movement, and occupy nearly three columns of the Herald with a display of figures, false assertions and singular arguments to prove that the course the Free State party deem proper to pursue is a wrong one. They consider the Free State men are acting the part of fanatics and fools by clinging to the honorable and manly position which has reaped for them the plaudits of the whole civilized world; and after satisfying themselves that they have clearly demonstrated to the conviction of everybody that the Topeka government is a sham affair and only kept alive for the aggrandizement of a few selfish office aspirants, they proceed to show that the Topeka constitution is not sanctioned by the majority of the people. They also reiterate the old stereotyped cry of the Democratic press, and join in the lugubrious howl of "treason!" "treason!" and profess to believe that the virgin soil of Kansas will once more drink the blood of slaughtered martyrs heroes, innocent victims, ruffians, abolitionists, thieves, robbers, assassins, murderers; that fire, water, murder, blood and thunder will amalgamate in one infernal chaos, if the people of Kansas endeavor to carry out the policy of the Topeka conventions.

The assertion that the Topeka Constitution is not sanctioned "by the majority of the people of Kansas is erroneous—egregiously, stupidly erroneous. One of the writers, sneeringly speaking of the "Topeka Governor," propounds the most gagging quere, "When did this (the Topeka) government receive the appointment of the people for their respective official trusts?" We will tell you, sir: On the 10th of March last, at Topeka, when delegates elected by the people of every district in the Territory assembled, and who were nearly unanimous in their approval of the Topeka Constitution; and by the urgent request of that Convention, Governor Robinson, whom it was supposed had doffed the gubernatorial robes, but on investigation was found had not, consented to still remain Governor. Could a more accurate or explicit expression of the people be obtained than through a convention, composed of representatives from every portion of the Territory, who were sent by the people to reflect their will? The argument the writer in question employs to prove this assertion is that not a "tittle of the Free State immigrants who have come to the Territory this spring are supporters of the Topeka organization." What ground he can have for originating such an argument is more than we can possibly conceive. It is universally conceded that nineteen-twentieths of the immigration into the Territory this season are from the Free States. Only three of those States—Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Indiana, gave their vote last fall for Buchanan. In the other States the Democratic party were routed with Waterloo defeats. The Republican party, a conspicuous plank in the platform of which approved of the Topeka Constitution, swept everything. The majority of the votes approving of the Free State Constitution was overwhelming.—Can it be then that the immigration into the Territory this season is composed of those only who voted for Buchanan—who disapproved of this Constitution? A ludicrous idea! What party, we ask, sympathized, prayed, labored and devoted money for the Free State cause in Kansas? It is unnecessary for us to answer. Would it not be in accordance with nature for people who manifested so much zeal in behalf of the Free State people of Kansas to use every exertion to hasten emigration to this Territory of people entertaining similar views? Most assuredly. Then a most decided majority of the people now coming into the Territory are in favor of the Topeka Constitution.

Now as to the legality of the Topeka movement, wiser heads than ours, and equally as wise, we are of the opinion, as the Herald writer, have decided that there is not one unlawful act in the movement, and as to the justice of it and adaptability of the Constitution, the writer himself coincides with its friends.

After renting the Topeka Constitution in shreds and demonstrating as lucidly as mud that the majority of the people of the Territory are opposed to it, the writer winds up his article by advising the Free State men to rally to the polls when the bogus Constitution is submitted to the people, and then dash its brains out and kick it into oblivion. Precisely our views when it can be submitted to the people—the whole people—of the Territory. But is not that a shallow hope? Did not Governor Geary veto to the act of the bogus legislature authorizing the election for delegates to frame a State Constitution, because it contained no clause requiring it to be submitted to the people, and was not that bill passed over the Governor's head? Is not nearly every delegate elected to the Convention, opposed and pledged to use his influence against the submission of the Constitution to the people? Governor Walker may promise and bid us hope of fair things as much as he chooses; but we believe it to be utterly out of his power, even if he had the disposition, to effect the submission of the bogus Constitution to the people.

In the shallow hope of being permitted to vote on the bogus Constitution, had we better put our hands in our pockets, quietly look on, and trust to fate? No, No. Let us unite heartily, cheerfully, unanimously on the Topeka platform, carry out its policy, and we are safe. We can vote on the Topeka Constitution once more, swell the vote on its ratification to tens of thousands, and then if we have the privilege and choose to do so, we can vote on the bogus Constitution, kill it, and have the entire field to ourselves. This hypocritical croaking about war when people choose to stand up for their rights and act like men is not going to affect the views or intentions of the Free State men. Take any course we please, be it as honorable as that we have seen proper to pursue, there will be no more bloodshed—and these croakers know it.

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If Kansas is admitted into the Union as a Slave State, it will be done through the agency of such men as wrote the articles in the Herald of Freedom we have been quoting from. There is a class of selfish, jealous men, who, because the honors of leadership have not been bestowed upon them are laboring with all their might to distract the Free State party, and resort to every expedient, no matter how mendacious and unfair, to sully the characters of our leaders, for the purpose of accomplishing their object. They evidently desire to build up a party of their own, of which they can be Dictators. Friends of freedom! let us beware of being entrapped in a snare by wily demagogues. The Free State organization is the work of yours, and its leaders are the unanimous choice of your will. Beware how you forsake it for the machinations of men who have no more at heart the freedom of Kansas than the Ruffians of Missouri. We have that confidence in your discriminating sense of propriety and unshaken devotion to liberty, to believe that you will do right.

## Acknowledgment.

We are under obligations to the ladies of Prairie City for erecting our office building! On our return from the States with the printing materials, it was found that the building we had purchased for our office could not be vacated by its present occupants for several weeks; so the ladies, ever ready to render assistance in a good cause, assembled together and constructed for us a large and commodious tent, which we now occupy, and which we find to serve every purpose. During the war times, the services of the ladies were invaluable in running bullets, making cartridges, nursing the maimed and sick, giving words of cheer &c; and now that they are unable to exhibit the characteristics of their nature in that line, they are still disposed to make the rougher sex indebted to them, by their favors and courtesies. Ladies, we thank you.

PHOENIX, N. Y.—GEORGE MERRY, Esq., will please act as agent for the CHAMPION for this place. A good many subscribers might be raised in Phoenix by a little exertion.

## Death of Senator Butler.

ANDREW P. BUTLER, United States Senator from South Carolina, died on Monday evening. This event had been for some time expected—his disease being an incurable dropy.—Mr. Butler was appointed to the Senate in 1847, by Gov. Johnson, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. George McDuffie, and has remained there ever since—having Mr. Calhoun for his colleague until 1851. For several years past Mr. B. has been prominent as one of the extreme Southern party, and was looked up to as a model of the boasted Chivalry of the Palmetto State. During the last session of Congress, his name was brought prominently before the people in the assault upon Senator Sumner—that assault having been committed by Preston S. Brooks, a nephew of Mr. Butler, and excused solely on the ground of the language used by Mr. Sumner in reply to a Pro-Slavery speech made by the South Carolina Senator. But time has made impressive changes. Mr. Sumner, after a protracted confinement at the very gates of the grave, is once more restored to health, while the rash and impulsive nephew and the venerable uncle sleep peacefully beneath the soil of the State whose wounded honor demanded such bloody atonement.

## Aurora, Illinois.

In the May number of the Chicago Magazine, is a short sketch of the history and progress of Aurora, illustrated by nine beautiful engravings, which are so accurate and life like that, while looking at them, we almost imagine we are there. The following extract, from the article we heartily concur in:

Beautifully situated on both sides of the Fox River, in Kane County, Illinois, where the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad crosses that River, forty-three miles by the road, west of Chicago, stands AURORA, a city recently incorporated, and containing about seven thousand inhabitants. The ground rises gradually from the river, on each side, for about eighty rods to an elevation of some seventy feet from the water, and then back from the summit of the bluff it extends some distance in a beautiful and almost level plateau. On that slope and plateau the city is built.

Justifying the application of its classic name, it is a brilliant and delightful situation—fair as the morning. Having travelled over some twelve different States of this Union, including most of New England, the writer of this article can safely, and conscientiously affirm, that he has never yet seen a city, whose location, in every respect, pleased him so well, or which was more desirable, as regards society, and all the elements and advantages which make society so pleasant. Does any one, who reads this notice, desire to enjoy, in quietness, the pleasures and comforts of elevated social life, we can particularly commend Aurora to his attention.

During a migratory life of several years, working in the capacity of a "jour printer," it has been our fortune to live in nearly all the principal cities in the Northwestern States, and also in many villages; but to no place in which we have ever lived—not even excepting that of our nativity—are we more strongly attached than Aurora. Our stay there was short, but pleasant. We feel proud of the Aurora representation in our beautiful city. They are a true type of the Aurora people. With such people to aid us in building up our city, we shall soon rank among the first interior cities of Kansas.

The prospect for cheap sugar is very unpromising. A letter from Havana to the New York Times, dated April 9th says:

"It is now pretty well acknowledged that the sugar crop in this island will be shorter at least by one-fifth than last year's. Interested parties are doing their best to conceal the truth, but the time is fast approaching when the official statements must be published. A large number of estates have already finished grinding, particularly in the vicinity of Mantanzas. Through the whole island the cane has been more or less injured by the strong winds and excessive hard rains. In addition to these calamities, the frosts bit the young growth. I have heard also, that the yield has been quite small, compared with that of previous years, to such an extent that many of the estates have made at least thirty per cent. less than last year. This has had the effect of raising prices to the present exorbitant standard, from which they will not abate."